

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A balance (1) comprising a weighing compartment
2 (4) that borders on a stationary part (8, 9) of the balance
3 and is otherwise enclosed by at least one side wall panel
4 (5, 6), a front wall panel (7), and a top cover panel (12);
5 wherein at least one of said panels is slidable by means of
6 a guiding device (17, 20) to open and close the weighing
7 compartment (4); and further comprising a handle (13)
8 serving at least one of the purposes of lifting the balance
9 (1) off a support surface and carrying the balance (1).

1 2. The balance (1) of claim 1, wherein the handle
2 (13) is attached to the stationary part (8, 9) of the
3 balance (1).

1 3. The balance (1) of claim 1, wherein the handle
2 (13) is arranged on top of the balance (1).

1 4. The balance (1) of claim 3, wherein the handle
2 (13) is arranged near the top cover panel (12).

1 5. The balance (1) of claim 1, wherein the handle
2 (13) is designed and is arranged on the balance (1) in such
3 a way, that the balance (1) can be lifted with one hand.

1 6. The balance (1) of claim 1, wherein the guiding
2 device (120) of the top cover panel (12) is at least
3 partially integrated in the handle (13).

1 7. The balance (1) of claim 6, wherein the handle
2 (13) is configured as a rail for a guide element (14) of
3 the guiding device (120) of the top cover panel (12).

1 8. The balance (1) of claim 7, wherein the guide
2 element (14) comprises a vertical body (78) holding a
3 vertical gear shaft (66) with an upper gear (73a) and a
4 lower gear (74a) and the guiding device comprises a pair of
5 gear racks (73, 74) meshing with the gears (73a, 74a).

1 9. The balance (1) of claim 7, wherein the guide
2 element (14) is laterally guided in the guiding device
3 (120) by a gliding constraint that prevents jamming of the
4 guide element (14).

1 10. The balance (1) of claim 7, wherein the guide
2 element (14) is laterally guided in the guiding device
3 (120) by a rolling constraint that comprises guide rollers
4 (75, 76) and provides jamming of the guide element (14)

1 11. The balance (1) of claim 1, further comprising
2 a holder element (15) for the top cover panel (12), wherein
3 the holder element (15) is integrated in the guiding
4 device, and wherein the holder element has a form-locking
5 closure device that holds and releases the top cover panel
6 (12) through application of a manual force to at least one
7 of the top cover panel (12) and the holder element (15).

1 12. The balance (1) of claim 1, further comprising
2 a clutch lever (16) arranged on the handle (13), whereby
3 the top cover panel (12) can be coupled to and uncoupled
4 from a motorized drive mechanism that serves to move the at
5 least one slidable wall (5, 6, 12).